

Mexico, constitute an aggression against national dignity." Moreover, the project apparently violates the 1983 La Paz Agreement between Mexico and the U.S., which commits both countries to prevent pollution affecting the border area.

My paramount concern, however, and the reason I have resisted a time agreement on this bill, was that I could not stand by and watch while a poor, politically powerless, Latino community was targeted to become the premier repository of low-level nuclear waste for the entire country. Much less give it my blessing. Not when I have the power to do something about it. At the very least, the amendments I included in this bill will keep Sierra Blanca from becoming a national dump, and will give local residents their day in court to seek elusive relief from environmental discrimination.

I hope my amendments accomplish something more than that, as well. I hope they keep alive the spirit of community this controversy has ignited. The newspaper columnist Molly Ivins has written that "this is community action and local organizing at its very best." I couldn't agree more. We have to maintain grass-roots pressure on the House or the conference committee, as case may be, to keep these amendments in the bill. And I hope the residents of Sierra Blanca will continue this struggle in every forum possible. I do believe they have right on their side, and I am still naive enough to hope and believe that right can beat might, and that justice can prevail against the odds.●

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

● Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Thursday, April 2, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,540,086,164,177.98 (Five trillion, five hundred forty billion, eighty-six million, one hundred sixty-four thousand, one hundred seventy-seven dollars and ninety-eight cents).

One year ago, April 2, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,376,710,000,000 (Five trillion, three hundred seventy-six billion, seven hundred ten million).

Five years ago, April 2, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,233,931,000,000 (Four trillion, two hundred thirty-three billion, nine hundred thirty-one million).

Fifteen years ago, April 2, 1983, the federal debt stood at \$1,246,551,000,000 (One trillion, two hundred forty-six billion, five hundred fifty-one million).

Twenty-five years ago, April 2, 1973, the federal debt stood at \$457,874,000,000 (Four hundred fifty-seven billion, eight hundred seventy-four million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,082,212,164,177.98 (Five trillion, eighty-two billion, two hundred twelve million, one hundred sixty-four thousand, one hundred seventy-seven dollars and ninety-eight cents) during the past 25 years.●

#### TRIBUTE TO WILLENE EVERETT

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a remarkable woman who was hailed as the "grand dame of community action" by her local paper upon her passing: Willene Everett of Meriden, Connecticut. Sadly, Mrs. Everett died this past summer at the age of 74.

For 31 years, Mrs. Everett worked at the Meriden Community Action Agency, where she headed the Elderly Nutrition Program for 15 years and the children's Summer Lunch Program for 10 years. She packed a lifetime worth of achievement into her tenure at the Agency, but her life was filled with many great experiences and accomplishments before she took this job.

Her job experience ranged from working as a beautician to a mortician. And perhaps the most noteworthy of these was her experience in the military, where she served in France, Germany and England during World War II as a Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Army.

But most of us in Connecticut will always associate Willene Everett with her work at the Community Action Center in Meriden. During her 31 year tenure, she made countless contributions. She helped to feed 1,500 people a day—both young and old. She also took the time to do the little things that brighten people's lives: sending birthday or get well cards to patrons of the Center, setting up a recipe exchange at work, traveling through snow storms to make sure that people at the Center had their breakfast and coffee.

Her work extended far beyond the Senior Center. She was President of "The Laurel Club," a social club known for its charitable work and efforts to provide scholarship funds for young African-Americans in the Meriden area. She was also active in the local NAACP and YWCA.

Her efforts did not go unrecognized. She was invited to and attended a White House Conference on Aging African-Americans during the Carter Administration. Among her awards, she received the YWCA's "Woman in Leadership Award," the "Woman of the Year" by the Girls' Club, and the "State of Connecticut General Assembly Award" in recognition of her civic and charitable work. In addition, the dining hall at the Seniors Center in Meriden has been named "Willene's Place" and a scholarship fund bearing her name is being established in her honor.

By renaming the dining hall and creating this scholarship fund, Willene Everett's name will carry on. But for those who knew her, there is no need for any form of tribute to ensure her remembrance. She was a caring and compassionate person, and she will never be forgotten by the people of Meriden, whose lives she touched and brightened.

Willene Everett is survived by her husband Edward and her children JoAnn and Steven. She was a loving wife and mother, and this year would

have actually marked her 50th wedding anniversary. She is dearly missed, and I offer my heartfelt condolences to her family.●

#### UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 2709

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that no earlier than May 20—however, no later than May 22—it be in order for the majority leader, after consultation with the minority leader, to turn to the consideration of Calendar No. 299, H.R. 2709. I ask unanimous consent that it be considered under the following limitations: The only amendments in order be the Levin amendment relating to the date of behavior subject to sanctions and a relevant second-degree amendment to be offered by Senator LOTT to the Levin amendment; that there be 1½ hours of debate on the bill divided in the usual form and 1½ hours on the amendments divided in the usual form. I further ask unanimous consent that following the expiration or yielding back of time and the disposition of any pending amendments, the bill be read a third time and the Senate proceed to vote on the passage of H.R. 2709 with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. Just one brief note, Mr. President. This does have to do with the Iran sanctions. We are still very much concerned that Russian companies are providing technology to Iran that could be used in very dangerous ways. The administration has been working with Russia to try to address this problem, but sufficient progress has not been made. The Senate cannot in good conscience allow this resolution to pend indefinitely without it being useless, so we are trying to set a time certain so that we can see if progress is being made. If not, the Senate should act.

#### CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN LANDS AND IMPROVEMENTS IN VIRGINIA

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3226 received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3226) to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain lands and improvements in the State of Virginia, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 3226) was passed.